

### **REMARKS**

In this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants have amended the Specification to make reference to the continuation of related U.S. application data. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, Applicants request priority to Application Serial No. 10/230,931 filed on August 29, 2002 (still pending); which is a continuation of Application Serial No. 09/954,561 filed on September 12, 2001 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,556,052); which is a continuation of Application Serial No. 09/882,420, filed on June 14, 2001 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,462,591); which is a continuation of Application Serial No. 09/559,115, filed on April 26, 2000 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,294,934), which is a continuation of Application Serial No. 09/141,675, filed on August 27, 1998 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,094,975), which claims priority to Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/073,353, filed on February 2, 1998, and the Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/057,400, filed on August 29, 1997. Thus, Applicants claim the benefit of the filing date of Application Serial No. 60/057,400, *i.e.*, August 29, 1997.


### **Proposed Amendment to the Drawings**

Accompanying this Preliminary Amendment is a Request to Approve Drawing Changes (hereinafter "REQUEST"). A copy of the REQUEST is attached hereto. In that REQUEST, Applicants seek to replace Figure 7 with newly proposed Figures 7A and 7B. In view of the size of the originally submitted Figure 7, the same subject matter is being submitted as Figures 7A and 7B. Applicants have also amended the Specification to reflect the proposed drawing changes. No new matter has been added.

Applicants request entry of the foregoing amendment prior to examination of this application. No new matter has been added.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 23, 2003

By:   
Kirk J. DeNiro  
Reg. No. 35,854

VIERRA MAGEN MARCUS HARMON & DENIRO LLP  
685 Market Street, Suite 540  
San Francisco, CA 94105-4206  
Telephone: (415) 369-9660  
Facsimile: (415) 369-9665